UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.115/L.689
15 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH/
SPANISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST
APARTHEID

MESSAGES RECEIVED ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Issued in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 659th meeting, on 10 August 1992)

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I. MESSAGES FROM MEMBER STATES

BOLIVIA

Message from the Government of Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]

It is my pleasure to inform you of the solidarity of the constitutional Government of Bolivia with your Special Committee, and to convey to you its appreciation of the efforts being made by the Committee, under your distinguished chairmanship, in promoting the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, to be observed on 10 August 1992.

Having regard to our country's traditional respect for human rights in the broadest sense of the term, we once again affirm, on behalf of the Government and people of Bolivia, our total and unwavering support for the international legal instruments which establish that apartheid is a discriminatory practice and an affront to human dignity and to the human conscience.

BRAZIL

Message from the Government of Brazil

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the Brazilian Government reiterates its hope that the process of dismantling the apartheid system will be accelerated and strengthened, leading to the establishment of a democratic, non-racial society in a united South Africa, where all men and women are finally recognized as equal irrespective of their race.

The Government and the people of Brazil have expressed their deepest concern over the recent episodes of violence in South African Black townships, which counted among their innocent victims many women and children. Besides representing crimes of a most hideous nature, those actions also put at risk the process of negotiation aimed at the complete abolition of apartheid.

The Brazilian Government hopes that the conditions for the resumption of the dialogue among the various parties in South Africa will be soon achieved and that negotiations will move forward smoothly and quickly. It also recognizes the fundamental role to be played by South African women - who have long endured the hardship and suffering which result from discriminatory practices - both in the discussions and in the establishment of a non-discriminatory society in that South Atlantic State.

COLOMBIA

Message from Ms. Noemí Sanín de Rubio, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance, on 10 August 1992, of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, I wish once again to declare the solidarity of the Government of Colombia with the demonstrations of protest by South African women against the laws promulgated by the Government of that country, demonstrations that have been taking place for the past 36 years.

The Government of Colombia has repudiated apartheid and has fought for the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination in that country, through strict application of all decisions adopted by the United Nations.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Special Committee against Apartheid on its intensive work during recent years, work which, we trust, will serve to bring about peace in a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

CUBA

Message from Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba

[Original: Spanish]

The observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa is a date of special significance, particularly at this time, when we are witnessing an upsurge of generalized violence which the South African authorities could prevent if they had the political will to do so.

We condemn the attempts to prolong the hegemony and domination of the white minority, and we appeal to the United Nations, to Governments and to international public opinion to exert greater pressure on the Government of South Africa with a view to halting the violence directed against the black population.

The struggle of the democratic South African forces has been a fundamental factor in the efforts to bring about a general dismantling of apartheid. We note with satisfaction that racist laws which formed part of the legal apparatus supporting the regime have been repealed, thereby creating conditions for future agreements between both parties that will make it possible to do away with the anti-democratic and racist constitution which is preventing the majority of the population from exercising its civil rights to the full.

South African women have played an active role in their people's unceasing struggle to achieve a united, democratic and multiracial South Africa, winning the respect and admiration of all nations of the world, which today pay them a well-deserved tribute.

Once again we convey to the African people, and particularly to the women, my country's message of solidarity with their struggle finally to eliminate the shameful system of apartheid from the face of the earth.

GHANA

Message from H.E. Flt.-Lt. J. J. Rawlings, Head of State and Chairman of the Provisional National Defence Council of Ghana

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, I wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Ghana and on my own behalf, to pay a special tribute to you and the members of the Special Committee against Apartheid for the tireless efforts you have made and continue to make to sensitize the international community to the evils of apartheid and the plight of the defenceless women and children in South Africa who have borne the brunt of the heinous system of apartheid in that country.

As we observe this Day, the people and Government of Ghana wish to salute the memory of those gallant women of South Africa who, 36 years ago today, defied the oppressive and inhuman machinery of apartheid and publicly demonstrated their principled objection to and abhorrence of the pass laws. Today, although the specific legislation regulating the pass book system has been abolished, the deprivation and segregation which those books signified, still persist in South Africa. The courage and bravery of the women of South Africa in resisting oppression to ensure that their children may live in dignity in their land of birth needs our collective commendation and support. It is indeed to their eternal credit that the struggle has now reached such a historic landmark where an irreversible change looms high on the horizon.

As we celebrate this day, therefore, we call on the international community to rededicate itself to the self-evident truth that the struggle of the women in South Africa is part of the struggle to ensure peace and justice among the nations and peoples of the world.

The people and Government of Ghana wish, on this occasion, once again to salute the gallant women of South Africa in their struggle against racial intolerance and apartheid. We also reaffirm our unflinching support for the noble efforts of the Special Committee against Apartheid and the entire United Nations system as well as for their inspiring commitment to the creation of a non-racial and democratic society in South Africa.

GUINEA

Message from H.E. General Lansana Conte, President of Guinea

[Original: French]

On the occasion of the observance of the historic date of 9 August, it is my pleasant duty to convey to you, on behalf of the people of Guinea, our total solidarity with the struggle of the women in South Africa and to pay a further well-deserved tribute to the thousands of women from all parts of that country who have courageously challenged the edifice of apartheid since 1956.

At this time, when a resurgence of violence continues increasingly to affect the situation of vulnerable groups, including women and children, while posing a serious obstacle to the process of negotiation aimed at establishing a non-racial and democratic society, I remain convinced that the international community must make a positive contribution for the purpose of bringing an early end to apartheid, in accordance with Security Council resolution 765 (1992).

In the attainment of that noble objective, rest assured that my country, in its capacity as a member of the Special Committee against Apartheid, will spare no effort to honour its international commitments with a view to finally securing the liberation of the African continent.

GUYANA

Message from the Government of Guyana

[Original: English]

On this occasion a year ago, the Government of Guyana expressed the hope that the remaining apartheid forms and practices would finally go without the further shedding of innocent blood, remarking that for too long the unnecessary wastage of life and limb has gone on.

Unfortunately, that hope was not realized in the succeeding months which saw instead the horrendous escalation of violence culminating in the disgraceful Boipatong massacre on 17 June 1992. The new day which seemed to beckon just one year ago is now more removed and mothers and daughters of South Africa have had to continue witnessing the senseless destruction of their offspring.

Guyana is nevertheless firmly convinced that the aspirations of the African majority will, in the not-too-distant future, be realized and pledges unstinting support to the women of South Africa whose mission it is to see their goal accomplished.

Reverses may be mere stepping-stones to final victory.

MALAYSIA

Message from Mr. Dato' Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia

[Original: English]

On the occasion of the solemn meeting in observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the people and Government of Malaysia wish to salute the women of South Africa who have contributed tirelessly to remove apartheid and create a just, non-racial and democratic society.

Malaysia acknowledges the positive developments that have taken place in South Africa. However, while the legal pillars of apartheid have been abolished, the deep-rooted consequences of racial discrimination are evident in the socio-economic inequities that persist. The South African Administration must address these inequities, a legacy of the apartheid years, if there is to be a just and truly democratic society. Earnest efforts must be made to bring the Black community to an acceptable level of socio-economic development.

The Government of Malaysia is gravely concerned over implications of the Boipatong massacre and the unstable situation in South Africa. We call upon all parties concerned not to allow the progress achieved thus far to be sacrificed away by communal violence or actions of forces opposed to change. The urgent task is to put an end to the violence and to work for the resumption of constitutional negotiations.

Malaysia still believes that the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) remains the viable mechanism for negotiations on South Africa's future provided that the South African Administration takes clear action effectively to curb violence and intimidation. In this regard, we wish to appeal to the Black people of South Africa to unite in solidarity of purpose, notwithstanding differences of affiliations so as to ensure that the goal of instituting a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa is achieved. Malaysia joins the international community in reaffirming our commitment to support the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa until the system of apartheid and its legacies are removed.

Today, as we celebrate the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the Government and people of Malaysia commend the women of South Africa for their determination and perseverance and the sacrifices that they have made in defence of human dignity and freedom. We believe that the day will come, when a free, united, democratic, and non-racial South Africa will take its rightful place in the community of nations.

NICARAGUA

Message from H.E. Ms. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, President of Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, I wish, on behalf of the people and Government of Nicaragua, to express our support for the struggle to secure respect for the rights of women in South Africa.

Likewise, conscious of the important role of women in society, we call upon the international community and the United Nations system to support all efforts made with a view to securing the eradication of the poverty, social injustice and violence inflicted upon women.

It is our fervent wish that South African women may, in a climate of peace and understanding, succeed in winning back their rights and contributing to the general welfare and to the peace and development of their country and of the rest of the world.

NIGERIA

Message from H.E. General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, President and Commander-in-Chief of Nigeria

[Original: English]

On behalf of the Government and people of Nigeria and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate warmly your Committee for keeping the question of apartheid alive at the most important international forum. Indeed, your Committee's activities have, over the years, sensitized the international community's resolve to act collectively for the purpose of eradicating apartheid and other forms of discrimination in southern Africa and especially inside South Africa.

Today, your Committee meets once again to honour and express international solidarity with the heroic struggle of the women of South Africa. The women folk in South Africa have truly risen to the occasion. Their persistent support and determination to ensure a fairer society where their children can live harmoniously in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity deserves commendation. The people of Nigeria salute them for this heroic struggle.

Your Committee is meeting this year at a time when negotiations for a democratic South Africa have stalled. Added to this, the environment has been significantly poisoned by the persistence of violence and the inability of the security forces to take firm actions against the perpetrators. It is our hope

that the Secretary-General's recent efforts authorized by the Security Council will go a long way in bringing peace to South Africa so that all parties to the conflict can return to the negotiating table. It is our hope that this year's solidarity meeting would be the last before power is transferred to the people of South Africa.

We salute, once again, the efforts of the South African women in the struggle to liberate their country and to bring pride to their gender.

PAKISTAN

Message from H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan

[Original: English]

The people and Government of Pakistan join the world community in commemorating the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa. On this day, we pay homage to the brave women who protested gallantly 36 years ago against South Africa's policies of apartheid, in particular, the unfair pass laws. This bold stand has, over the years, encouraged the women and other disadvantaged groups in South Africa to continue their heroic struggle against the unjust laws of apartheid and put up a just fight for the attainment of their basic human rights.

Pakistan has always been a staunch supporter of the anti-apartheid movement. The racial segregation perpetrated by that inhuman system was not only against the basic tenets of Islam, but also ran counter to all norms of civilized behaviour. We believe that the international pressure against the Pretoria regime should be continued until the positive changes introduced in the last two years become irreversible, and the struggle of the South African people for equality, justice and majority rule is finally crowned with success.

Pakistan also regards the escalating violence in South Africa as a threat to peace and the negotiating process. The Government of Pakistan supports the Security Council's call to the South African authorities to take immediate measures to end the violence and bring to justice those responsible for the Boipatong incident. We also support the appointment of the special envoy of the Secretary-General to find ways for the resumption of the negotiations on the future constitution of South Africa.

I am confident that the day is not far when the noble struggle of the South African women and other brave people of South Africa to remove the last remnants of apartheid and achieve majority rule would bear fruit.

PERU

Message from Mr. Oscar de la Puente Raygada, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru

[Original: Spanish]

On this International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the Government of Peru, in accordance with the provisions of its political constitution which rejects all forms of discrimination, wishes to renew its support for the process leading to the final eradication of the shameful system of apartheid, and to express its solidarity with the cause of South African women seeking to build a just and democratic society for future generations.

The people and Government of Peru are following with attention and hope the evolution of the current political process in South Africa, and it is their earnest wish that, through negotiation and dialogue, the obstacles that continue to stand in the way of national reconciliation in South Africa may be overcome.

THAILAND

Message from Mr. Arsa Sarasin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand

[Original: English]

On this solemn occasion to commemorate the thirty-sixth anniversary of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, I wish to reiterate, on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, our solidarity with the South African women in their just struggle for fundamental equal rights and the complete elimination of apartheid.

Thailand would like to urge all the parties concerned to bring about an effective end to the conflicts in South Africa by peaceful means so that the constructive negotiations towards a political settlement may resume. Therefore, the prosperity of the new, democratic, non-racial and united South Africa will be realized soon.

I wish to reiterate once again our firm support for the just and noble cause of women in South Africa. I also wish them every success in their struggle for the elimination of apartheid and the achievement of a peaceful settlement in the new South Africa.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Message from Mr. Ralph Maraj, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: English]

As the international community commemorates the eleventh anniversary of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the people of South Africa have yet again been plunged into a period of increased uncertainty and heightened instability. The June massacre at the Boipatong township, the latest in a series of recent massacres, has at least temporarily derailed the process of negotiations under way in South Africa. Trinidad and Tobago condemns in the strongest terms the tragic massacre at Boipatong and awaits early action by the Security Council to end the escalating violence and to assist in the resumption of effective negotiations.

Amid all the uncertainties and tests of courage and fortitude, the oppressed people of South Africa have remained hopeful and confident in their faith that a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa is no longer a distant dream, but an attainable reality. The women of South Africa have and continue to play a crucial role in the process of realizing that elusive goal and have therefore shared in the burdens and dangers of that undertaking.

The Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago join the international community in paying high tribute to the many South African women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for and who continue to contribute unselfishly to the struggle for dignity, justice and equality in their beloved country. In the current circumstances, just tribute fittingly can be paid to these women by focusing increased international attention on the need to assist the thousands of South Africans who have joined the ranks of the homeless, the tens of thousands who remain refugees, the male and female political prisoners who continue to languish in South African gaols and the millions who continue to be deprived of fundamental political rights and the basic social and economic amenities of life.

The convening on 15 July 1992 of an urgent meeting of the Security Council on the situation in South Africa testifies to the recognition that the international community still has an ongoing responsibility to assist in the shaping of a new South Africa. In this connection, my Government believes it the duty of all Member States to be faithful to the provisions of the 1989 consensus Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, as well as to subsequent consensus resolutions of the General Assembly which addressed the issues of violence and the process of negotiations for a just society.

Trinidad and Tobago, in keeping with this position, will maintain its existing economic and military sanctions against South Africa until profound and irreversible changes are implemented in that country and would urge other

States to adopt a similar course of action if, together, we are to assist the men, women and children of South Africa in the achievement of their hard-fought objective of a peaceful, united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

VENEZUELA

Message from Mr. Fernando Ochoa Antich, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]

Venezuela today pays tribute to South African women for their valiant struggle and unceasing efforts to bring about a free, united and democratic South Africa and a better future for their children and their people.

Throughout the course of their participation in the struggle to attain democracy in South Africa, and in many cases as the head of a family, South African women have faced great challenges. Their enormous achievements and extraordinary sacrifices have won them the recognition of the international community.

The latest events in South Africa and the continuing violence are evidence of a situation which has yet to progress in accordance with expectations. An end to violence is a prerequisite for real progress in the negotiations aimed at achieving a united and democratic South Africa. We are convinced of the need to continue all efforts to resume negotiations on a Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) at the earliest opportunity, culminating in the drafting of a constitution embodying the equality of rights of all South Africans.

II. MESSAGES FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ALL-AFRICAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

[Original: English]

On this occasion, the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, its Central Committee and especially its women's wing, the All-African Women's Revolutionary Union, come before you standing with the African masses.

We come before you uncompromisingly, to stand with our people in their enduring and unrelenting commitment to service, sacrifice and suffering - towards the victorous cause of liberation. Uncompromisingly, we stand with our people, the sovereign protectors of their future. Uncompromisingly, we stand with the oppressed in their vigilant fight for self-determination. This fight is a human right which can only be measured by the people's ability to

harness all powers which control their lives and the means of control in their hands.

The All-African People's Revolutionary Party wants to thank our mothers; we want to thank our sisters; we want to thank our aunts and we want to thank our fathers, brothers and uncles who have toiled for generations to wrestle our future from the death grip of settler colonialism, which is still strangling our Mother Africa. We thank the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania for this invitation to speak before this body once again. For Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah always reminded us that as one inch of Africa remains in chains, all of Africa and her scattered children remain in chains. The All-African People's Revolutionary Party will be here every year and go anywhere demanded by the African revolution. And, we thank the Special Committee against Apartheid for their continuing support of people's rights, as represented by this forum.

This day has been set aside to highlight the contributions made by the women of Azania/South Africa in their fight to regain control of their lives. In order that we remain true to their testament, we must heed the lessons taught by the determination of our courageous mothers. Let us use this time to highlight some of those lessons.

On this occasion, it would be very easy to talk about individuals and individual accomplishments. However, individual accomplishments can be metered out as token gifts and Trojan horses. More importantly, as individuals are shaped by the aspirations of the people, it is the collective will of the people which is supreme. Therefore, we must measure all successes and failures by the development of the people, not by individual accomplishments. For example, when 20,000 women marched in 1956 against the pass laws they did not march as individuals. They marched as an organized collective, in unity. They did not march only against the pass laws but against a racist and inhuman system that legislated the passbook to regulate and limit the movement of the African masses. This same system has legislated the Internal Security Act, the Land Acts and limited employment opportunities. This same system wants to keep all the material, mineral, industrial and financial wealth in the hands of the minority settlers. This same system refuses to return the land to its owners. This same system seeks to destroy our people.

Today, when our daughters are raped and killed by mercenaries of the regime, we cannot individualize their torture. They are the victims of an illegal system which seeks to further destabilize the masses. When our children are rounded up by the security forces and detained with no notification to their parents, it is not the individual child that suffers, but generations of young people that do not know life without fear. When our husbands must labour at pennies a day, far from the love of their family, it is not the individual man that is lonely. It is the creation of broken families, by the millions, which will later be labelled unruly and dysfunctional. Mr. Chairman, African people have witnessed this truth of colonial oppression, time and time again. In 113 countries, where our people

have suffered in the servitude of imperialism and colonial exploitation, our children have been scarred, our mothers have been sacrificed and our fathers have been lost. Then, the world looks us in the face and tells us we are not ready, we are unworthy of controlling our lives.

The illegal regime continues to force the worst indignities of human kind on the people of Azania/South Africa. They are denied the right to life - to live as free men and women. They suffer the daily inhumanity of inadequate food and inadequate housing. Police harassment has been strengthened by the so-called security forces, that is, the South African Defense Force, Koevoet, Buffalo Battalion 32, the Askaris and Selous Scouts. And the regime desires to integrate these forces into its regular police! This is the reality of colonial occupation. This is a police state. In 1986, before the regime of reform, five of our people were murdered daily, on the average. Today our people are killed at a rate of 15 per day. As of 1991, it was reported that 1,094 political trials were to be held, for a total of 1,450 persons. There were 333 persons on death row. Tuberculosis and AIDS are beginning to ravage the population. We ask, where is the progress?

As the world debates the false starts orchestrated by the illegal South African regime, we must recognize the truth. This is not a chess game and our people's future is at stake. As southern Africa languishes in the chains of settler colonialism, the forward development of all of Africa is being stalled. The de Klerk regime masquerades in a cloak of reform but our people, African people, demand total liberation.

If history has determined, there is no freedom without the emancipation of women; if history has determined, freedom exemplified in the lives of the people will be measured by the status and the participation of the women; and, the women have demanded more than reform; then, the dismantling of settler colonialism demands more than reform.

The women of Azania/South Africa have spoken, "Apartheid cannot be reformed, it must be destroyed!". And, the destruction of apartheid demands that the illegal settler regime must go. The international community must follow the demands of the people, as the African masses refuse to allow the South African regime to bargain for its continued existence. The people have called for genuine liberation, self-determination, a total transformation of the society.

The problems of Azania/South Africa are not just the problems of apartheid. Apartheid represents a network of "laws" used to protect a voracious system feeding on the future of the people. The masses of the people in Azania/South Africa are victims of colonial aggression. If we were to ask our people to be satisfied with anything less than their complete liberation, then we would be spitting in the face of our mothers, grandmothers, sisters and aunts who fight everyday to raise their children and protect their families while labouring in the midst of an undeclared war of attrition. The international community, led by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations, has a responsibility to the people who are

sovereign in their aspiration for freedom and self-determination. A non-racial, democratic state cannot be built on a garbage heap of lies, oppression, genocide and theft. The people have demanded a constituent assembly, elected from a common voters' role of a unified state. We challenge you to meet the test.

Today, we hail the African masses, led by our courageous mothers, who have fought standing toe-to-toe against settler colonial aggression. They are our nurturers, our protectors and our teachers. They are a source of power.

Victory to the people of Azania/South Africa!

As always, we stand ready for the revolution.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

[Original: English]

The Women's International Democratic Federation respectfully observes this International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa. The proud march of 1956 reflected the determination of 20,000 Black and White women of South Africa to achieve dignity and justice. That march was prelude to the triumphant general strike called last week by the African National Congress and its allies in a unified thrust for a non-racial transitional administration and speedy elections for a duly elected constitutional Assembly.

The two-day protest, the largest in South African history, was supported by up to 90 per cent of the workers. It shut down businesses across South Africa and confirmed massive opposition to the de Klerk Government and unqualified support for Nelson Mandela's demand for an end to 300 years of White domination.

Women were prominent in the mass demonstrations of voteless Blacks at Johannesburg, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, East London and Bloemfontein in a week of actions involving up to 4 million Blacks demanding that Pretoria cede power to a non-racial interim government.

Women are always the poorest of the poor and the legacies of apartheid coupled with massive unemployment, pitiable health care, and inadequate housing systems, contribute to the absolute poverty and squalor in which so many urban and rural Blacks live. The pain of apartheid falls heavily on women and their children who live in segregated townships, squatter settlements or arid bantustans. The apartheid system has created a lost generation of idle youths, robbed of hope and education. Their situation adds to the despair and torment of their mothers and female relatives. The present violence which has claimed over 6,000 lives in the past two years has created "Widow Valleys" where women moan the loss of their husbands, lovers, sons and where often the women themselves are victims of killings, firebombings, assassinations, unlawful detentions, etc.

The deep distrust of the Black population for the security forces has been validated by the Waddington Report and the shocking findings of South Africa's leading pathologist, Dr. Jonathan Gluckman, whose post-mortem examinations of 200 people who died in custody, revealed that 90 per cent had been assaulted by the police.

The collapse of the 19 party constitutional talks brought about by de Klerk's intransigent insistence on maintaining a White minority veto; the escalating violence and the appalling Boipatong massacre galvanized the African National Congress, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the South African Communist Party into a unified Mass Campaign for Democracy and Peace. That Campaign emphasizes an end to violence and the speedy resumption of meaningful negotiations leading to elections for a democratic constituent assembly.

The international community has also responded to the current crisis in South Africa. Security Council resolution 765 (1992), adopted on 16 July 1992 by a unanimous vote of 15 to none, emphasized the responsibility of the South African authorities to take all necessary measures to stop immediately the violence and to protect the life and property of all South Africans. Moreover, it urged the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to seek ways to end political violence and restart negotiations. Cyrus Vance, the United Nations envoy, recently ended a 10-day fact-finding mission with political, church, trade union and business leaders.

The Federation sees an international monitoring group comprising representatives of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the European Community as a viable body remaining in South Africa "until a solution is found" to the problem of violence.

The spirit of resistance embodied in the 1956 march of the South African women still waits for the birth of a democratic South Africa with one person, one vote, in a non-racial, non-sexist society. AMANDLA!

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

[Original: English]

The World Federation of Trade Unions wishes to congratulate the Special Committee for its leadership in keeping the issue of apartheid before the international community. But we also wish to express our outrage at the fact that it is still necessary to have such meetings.

The fact that today's meeting - called to salute the women of South Africa and to express our solidarity with their struggles - follows last week's historic events in South Africa, gives the international community the opportunity - and we would suggest, a mandate - to examine the progress made towards the total elimination of apartheid.

These events - a two-day general strike involving some 5 million workers and the march of 100,000 on the seat of government at Pretoria - have shown the depth of the determination of the people of South Africa that apartheid must go. They also show the breadth of public confidence enjoyed by the African National Congress (ANC), the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the South African Communist Party (SACP).

Thus the question: What can the international community do to speed the process towards the elimination of apartheid? And more to the point, what can and must be done to resume the CODESA [Convention for a Democratic South Africa] process?

For its part, the World Federation of Trade Unions unequivocally supports the demands of the ANC-COSATU-SACP alliance: an early (by 31 December 1992) convening of an interim government, elections to a constituent assembly on the basis of one person, one vote and an end to state-supported violence.

These are not pie-in-the-sky demands. On the contrary, they are consistent with the positions outlined in the December 1989 resolution of the General Assembly.

In a statement commemorating Soweto Day, the World Federation of Trade Unions warned: "The present deadlock of CODESA II plus the revelations of complicity at the highest level of Government in the continued violence aimed at destabilizing that process is cause for alarm. It should stand as a warning to the international community".

Although we make no claim of omniscience, the massacre of 47 people on 17 June at Boipatong, barely 24 hours after those remarks, points to their validity on 16 June - and to their validity on 10 August.

Thus, we again join with others in calling upon the international community to be firm in their commitment and to be resolute in accepting their responsibility to help bring an end to apartheid. To this end, we call for the reimposition of economic and political measures in order to bring Pretoria back to the negotiating table with meaningful proposals aimed at the creation of a democratic, unitary, non-racist, non-sexist state.

To do less would betray the very principles that underlie the Organization and would make a mockery of today's meeting.